

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /119 W

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R 200515 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3696

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAG NKP

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3045

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: SOUVANNA PRESS STATEMENT ON USAF THA VIANG

REF: FBIS PUERTO RICO 191814 Z APRIL 73

1. REF CONTAINED AFP PARIS REBROADCAST OF INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PRIME MINISTER TO VIENTIANE AFP CORRESPONDENT CAZAUX ON SUBJECT. SIGNIFICANT HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS INTERVIEW WERE BROADCAST ON RADIO VIENTIANE APRIL 20, AND ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE - THE HEAVY BOMBING RAIDS CARRIED OUT BY AMERICAN B-52 BOMBERS OVER LAOS THIS WEEK AT THE REQUEST OF THE VIENTIANE GOVERNMENT WERE PURELY DEFENSIVE ACTS LIMITED SOLELY TO PLACES WHERE OUR AGGRESSORS ARE FLAGRANTLY VIOLATING THE CEASEFIRE, LAOTIAN PREMIER PRINCE SOUVANNA PHOUMA SAID TODAY.

3. QUOTE - THE PRINCE TOLD ME THAT A GENERALIZED RESUMPTION OF THE WAR IN LAOS IS THEREFORE NOT TO BE FEARED, NOR EVEN CONSIDERED IN THESE CONDITIONS. BESIDES, THE RESUMPTION OF TOTAL WAR IS AN ACT OF GENERAL POLICY WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD NOT DEPEND ON LAOS ALONE, EVEN IF THIS WERE A LIKELY
HYPOTHESIS IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. QUOTE - THE LAOTIAN PREMIER SAID HE HAD CALLED IN
THE B-52' S FOLLOWING THE COMMUNIST ATTACK ON THA VIANG
NORTHEAST OF VIENTIANE. HE MADE IT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT
ONLY MILITARY OBJECTIVES WERE ATTACKED IN THE THA VIANG
REGION.

5. QUOTE - THE RESUMPTION OF THE BOMBING WAS THE VIENTIANE
GOVERNMENT' S SECOND REACTION TO NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACKS
SINCE THE CEASEFIRE CAME INTO EFFECT ON FEBRUARY 23,
THE PREMIER WENT ON. THE FIRST WAS WHEN COMMUNIST FORCES
ATTACKED THE TOWN OF PAKSONG, ON THE BOLOVENS PLATEAU IN
SOUTHERN LAOS, ALMOST TWO MONTHS AGO.

6. QUOTE - ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO SOME COMMUNIST CIRCLES
IN VIENTIANE, THE BOMBING RAIDS CONTINUED FOR FOUR FULL
DAYS, APRIL 15 TO 18 , BOTH LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT AND AMERICANS
WANT TO DESCRIBE THESE RAIDS - AS THEY DID THE FIRST SERIES
OF AIR ATTACKS AGAINST PAKSONG-- AS LIMITED IN TIME AND
SPACE.

7. QUOTE - THE BOMBING WOULD APPARENTLY HAVE NO EFFECT
ON CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS TO FORM A PROVISIONAL LAOTIAN
GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION. END QUOTE.
GODLEY

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